

XXXV.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 286.]

62. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.* Nos. 21 & 22, January and April 1897.

[The *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, a Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated 'The Scottish Naturalist.' No. 21, January 1897, and No. 22, April 1897.]

In No. 21, and after an interval of nine months, Mr. Bolam contributes his second instalment of a paper on the birds of Berwick-on-Tweed, and the third appears in No. 22. The Rev. H. A. Macpherson gives particulars respecting four examples from Kirkeudbrightshire illustrating the rare hybridism between the Red Grouse and the Black Grouse. Sir Herbert Maxwell records the earliest instance known of the nesting of the Great Crested Grebe on the White Loch of Myrton, in Wigtownshire, and mentions other birds which frequent that sanctuary. Among the notes, a second Scottish example of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) is recorded, this time from Dhu Heartach Lighthouse, Argyllshire, where it was found dead on the morning of September 9th last. In No. 22 Mr. W. E. Clarke gives further particulars of the occurrence of *Pelagodroma marina* at Colonsay, on the west side of Scotland, as already recorded in the 'Bulletin' of the B.O.C. (*cf. Ibis, supra*, p. 262); while several interesting species are mentioned among the notes.

63. '*The Auk*,' January and April, 1897.

[The *Auk*. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xiv., Nos. 1, 2, January & April, 1897.]

The last words of our previous notice (*supra*, p. 120) were expressive of satisfaction at the attention which Palearctic birds were receiving in America, and now the second paper in the January number of '*The Auk*' is an essay by Mr. F. E. L. Beal on the food of the Starling, the Rook, and the Wood-Pigeon, based upon reports from Dr. Hollrung, at Halle, and Mr. John Gilmour, in Scotland. The food of the Rook is compared with that of the American Crow; the two

other birds being briefly noticed. There is an interesting report from the A.O.U. Committee on Protection of North American Birds, from which it appears that plume-wearing women in California readily accept the conscience-soothing falsehood which has been freely propagated here, and exclaim, "That 'aigrette' never belonged to a bird: they are simply manufactured feathers!" The slaughter, says Mr. Anthony, is now in all its glory, and at the present rate the "countless thousands" of Herons which nested in Magdalena Bay cannot last long. The advocates of protection are, however, working hard, and are in touch with our Society in England, whose management and literature are highly commended. Dr. A. P. Chadbourne concludes his essay on Individual Dichromatism in *Megascops asio* (illustrated by the frontispiece). Dr. Coues defends his genus *Zamelodia* of 1880 against *Habia*, Reich., of 1850; he must settle the matter with Dr. Stejneger. Mr. E. W. Nelson contributes preliminary descriptions of forty-two new species and subspecies of birds obtained during five years' explorations in Mexico and Guatemala, and founds a new genus *Hylorchilus*, the type of which is *Catherpes sumichrasti*, Lawr. Mr. Oberholser describes a new subspecies of *Dendroica* (sc. *Dendroica*), and Mr. Brewster follows with some criticisms on Mr. Oberholser's nomenclature of various forms of Downy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates*). Among the General Notes, our Mr. J. H. Gurney records his discovery of an adult male Labrador Duck (*Camptolanius labradorius*) in the Muscum at Amiens, France; and although this statement may very likely have appeared also in some English journal, we do not recollect it. Mr. J. F. Fannin, of Victoria, B.C., states that he has observed the California Vulture (*Pseudogryphus californianus*) between Calgary and the Rocky Mountains, *i. e.* to the east of that range, and also a considerable distance to the north of its distribution as formerly known. The eighth supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list occupies pp. 117-135.

In the April number, the frontispiece illustrates a paper by Dr. Chadbourne on the spring-plumage of the Bobolink

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), with remarks on colour-change and moulting. The author traverses a statement by Dr. J. A. Allen in Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 1896, p. 43, which asserts that in confinement the colour-change in spring is *not* accompanied by "any increase in feather-loss," and states that in the coloured plate belonging to a paper by Mr. F. M. Chapman in 'The Auk' for 1893, p. 309, "it was decided to assist Nature by having the 'moult' of the wings and tail completed by the artist." Dr. Chadbourne makes further observations, which we will not quote. Mr. F. M. Chapman replies, repudiating the imputation, and there we must leave the parties to this triangular duel. By the way, Mr. Millais's paper in 'The Ibis,' 1896, pp. 451-157, has been disposed of in 'The Auk' (pp. 109-111) by "the deadly parallel column." Mr. C. W. Richmond describes ten new species and subspecies of birds obtained by Dr. W. L. Abbott some years ago in the Kilimandjaro district of East Africa. Mr. Anthony has found three new species and subspecies in Lower California; Mr. W. W. Price considers the Pine-Grosbeak from California worthy of subspecific distinction, and Mr. H. C. Oberholser reviews the Marsh-Wrens (*Cistothorus*) with the addition of a new subspecies. Dr. Stejneger claims full specific rank for his *Cephus snowi*, based on a bird from Raikoke Island, Kurils, which he had previously taken to be a melanistic individual of *C. columba*. A great feature of the past winter has been the visitation of Brünnich's Guillemot (*Uria bruennichi*), not only along the coast as far as South Carolina, but also in Indiana, Michigan, and other inland States.

Dr. Coues requires a paragraph to himself, for he seems to have re-entered upon a period of activity which is surprising. He adduces strong evidence that *Fuligula collaris* (Donovan), described in 1809 from an individual said to have been found in Leadenhall Market, had been discovered previously by Lewis and Clarke, near the mouth of the Columbia River. He proposes a new genus, *Dafilula*, having for type *Querquedula eatoni*, Sharpe, from Kerguelen Island. He has satisfied himself that there are three valid subdivisions in Brent Geese, and proposes to recognize *Branta*

*berniela glaucogastra* [sic]. He gives reasons for placing *Gallinago major*, *Helodromas ochropus*, and *Totanus totanus* (our *T. calidris*) in the American list, as occasional visitors. With regard to the Green Sandpiper, one of the reasons which he assigns for placing it in the genus *Helodromas* is its arboreal nidification, for at the time of writing he was doubtless unaware of the fact that Mr. H. L. Popham had found the Wood-Sandpiper also laying its eggs in old nests of other birds, placed in trees. Dr. Coues goes on to point out "the most General Fault of the A.O.U. Check-List." Formerly the sequence was from the highest (whether Raptures or Passeres) to the lowest forms of birds; but when this arrangement was, as he graphically expresses it, "turned hind part before," the list of families began with the most generalized forms, and ended with those which are highly specialized. This reversal, however, was not generally carried out as regards the genera and species, most of which remain on "the high to low principle"; and this Dr. Coues considers to be "a constitutional vice which can only be eradicated by tearing the List to pieces and putting it together again in better form." We will express no opinion as to how the Code List can be best amended, but we trust that our American cousins will believe that we have long since noticed this inconsistency, although we have not felt called upon to play the ungracious part of the "candid friend." Lastly, Dr. Coues contributes a lengthy and well-deserved eulogy of Professor Newton's 4th Part of the 'Dictionary of Birds,' quoting in full a passage which is almost the only one to which some exception has been taken. There are two words which we think will *not* be found in that master-piece of English: "scientist" and "reliable," to the use of which Dr. Coues is somewhat addicted.

64. '*Avicula*': a new Italian Ornithological Journal.

[*Avicula*, Giornale Ornitologico Italiano. Anno I. No. 1. Siena, 1897.]

'*Avicula*' is a new Italian journal of ornithology, edited by Cav. Sigismondo Brogi, and published at Siena. It is

devoted to the study of the avifauna of Italy and to everything connected with birds in general. The editor has secured the support of Prof. Giglioli and Count Salvadori and of many other correspondents in various parts of Italy, whose names are given on the titlepage. Prof. Giglioli writes on the occurrence of *Corvus tingitanus* in Sardinia, and Sig. Meloni records the first appearance of *Cursorius gallicus* in the same island. Other rare visitors are chronicled, and notices of recent publications and of other ornithological topics are added. We wish our new contemporary every sort of success.

### 65. *Blaauw's 'Monograph of the Cranes.'*

[A Monograph of the Cranes. By F. E. Blaauw. Illustrated by 22 Coloured Plates (the greater number drawn under the immediate superintendence of Dr. G. F. Westerman) by Heinrich Leutemann and J. G. Keulemans. Folio. Leiden and London: E. J. Brill and R. H. Porter, 1897.]

We are sure that all ornithologists will be pleased with Mr. Blaauw's beautiful volume on the Cranes, which has lately been issued by Mr. Brill in Leiden and Mr. Porter in London. It contains not only a splendid and accurate series of figures of these birds, their young ones and their eggs, but also an excellent text, giving as complete an account as possible of every known species of the family.

The original drawings of the Cranes were made for the late Dr. Westerman by the well-known German artist Leutemann, and bequeathed by Westerman to Mr. Blaauw with an injunction to publish them. This Mr. Blaauw has now done, after adding to the original series figures of *Grus nigricollis* and of the young and eggs of some of the species, prepared by Keulemans.

Mr. Blaauw considers that Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, in his revision of the Gruidæ, published in the 23rd volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' has "needlessly augmented the number of genera," which he reduces to three—*Grus*, *Anthropoides*, and *Balearica*. He also declines to recognize three of the species adopted by Dr. Sharpe—



namely, *Grus lilfordi* (= *G. communis*), *G. mexicana* (= *G. canadensis*), and *Balearica gibbericeps* (= *B. regulorum*). As regards the last-named species, Mr. Blaauw points out that authors have made a great error in assigning to it the specific name "*chrysopelargus*, Licht.," the *Ardea chrysopelargus* of Lichtenstein being manifestly nothing more or less than the Black Stork. He therefore restores to the Cape Crowned Crane the specific name "*regulorum*, Bennett." With these suggestions of Mr. Blaauw we are fully prepared to agree.

Thus Mr. Blaauw recognizes in all 16 species of Gruidæ, divided into three genera, and gives good figures of them all—all taken from life, except in the case of *Grus nigricollis*. Besides these we have six more plates devoted to the illustration of the young birds and the eggs, making 22 plates in all.

Only 170 copies of this work have been prepared, and we have no doubt that they will be quickly disposed of. A similar monograph of the Storks would make an excellent companion volume, and we hope that Mr. Blaauw will now devote his attention to this subject.

#### 66. *Brown-Goode, G.—Bibliography of Sclater's Publications.*

[Bibliography of the Published Writings of Philip Lutley Sclater, F.R.S., Secretary of the Zoological Society of London. Prepared under the direction of G. Brown-Goode. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 47.]

The 49th number of the 'Bulletin' of the United States National Museum, lately issued, contains a bibliography of Sclater's published writings, prepared under the direction of the late Dr. G. Brown-Goode, and, we believe, one of the last, if not the very last, piece of work that our much-regretted friend brought to a close before his untimely decease. As pointed out by Dr. Brown-Goode in his preface, it was undertaken because most of Sclater's writings relate to the birds of Central and South America, a subject to which the ornithologists of the United States are now devoting special attention. The copying and arrangement of the titles was done by Mr. George Arthur Doubleday, clerk in the Zoo-

logical Society's Library, to whom special acknowledgment is offered by the Editor for the manner in which he has performed this part of the work.

After a biographical sketch of Selater, the volume contains a chronological catalogue of the titles of his separate works (26) and of his papers published in the journals of scientific societies and in other periodicals up to the end of 1894—1239 in all. After each title a short analysis of the contents of the publication is added. This bibliography is followed by lists of the new families, genera, and species described and of the species figured in the various publications. An Index of subjects, and an Appendix containing the titles of works and papers published in 1895 and 1896, conclude the volume, of which Selater will be pleased to supply a copy to any member of the B.O.U. who may wish to have it.

#### 67. *Butler on the Effects of Civilization.*

[Indiana: A Century of Changes in the Aspects of Nature. By A. W. Butler. Proc. Indiana Ac. Sci. v. p. 31.]

Mr. Butler sends us a copy of his Presidential Address to the Indiana Academy of Science delivered at Indianapolis in December last. It treats in an interesting and impressive way of the changes wrought in the State of Indiana by the hand of the white man. In the beginning of this century the greater part of the State was one primeval forest of enormous trees, interspersed with meadows and prairie. These were tenanted by bisons in countless numbers, wapitis, deer, and other large mammals. Among the birds, Turkeys, Colins, Ruffed Grouse, and Paroquets were abundant. Passenger Pigeons existed in millions. Now the great trees are gone, and the birds have perished with them, through the destructive energy of "civilized man." "Except in a few localities" there remains "no virgin forest," and as regards birds, a set of new-comers, adapted to the change of environment, has replaced the Paroquet and the Passenger Pigeon in the secondary woods and shrubs.

68. *Büttikofer on Birds from Nias.*

[On a Collection of Birds from Nias. By Dr. J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xviii. p. 161.]

From the collections of Rosenberg, Modigliani as reported on by Count Salvadori, and of Claine as described by Dr. Oustalet, together with additions made by Count Berlepsch from specimens received by him from Mr. W. Thomas, we know of the existence of 104 species of birds in the Malay Island of Nias, near Sumatra. A splendid series recently obtained in Nias by Mr. J. Z. Kannegieter, and received at the Leyden Museum, enables Dr. Büttikofer to make 24 additions to the list, thus bringing up the whole number of the birds of Nias now known to 128. Four of these are new to science, and are named *Ketupa minor*, *Chrysophlegma niasense*, *Artamides kannegieteri*, and *Carpoplaga vandepolli*. Amongst the winter visitors to Nias are enumerated such well-known northern species as *Geocichla sibirica*, *Phylloscopus borealis*, and *Motacilla melanope*.

69. *Büttikofer on a new Species of Newtonia.*

[On a probably new Species of *Newtonia* from Madagascar. By Dr. J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xviii. p. 199.]

*Newtonia olivacea* is a second species of the genus, closely allied to *N. brunneicauda*, but undoubtedly different. Two specimens in the Leyden Museum were obtained at Savary, N.E. Madagascar, by Audebert in 1878.

70. *Chapman on the Birds of Yucatan.*

[Notes on Birds observed in Yucatan. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. viii. p. 271.]

The birds of Yucatan are already well known to science principally from collections made during the past 18 years by Dr. Gaumer, who is residing at Izamal, and the results of whose investigations have been mostly incorporated in the "Aves" of the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.' But Mr. Chapman has done a good piece of work in putting together his field-notes on 74 species which he met with at



Chichen-Itza, in the north-central part of the peninsula, in March 1896. Mr. Chapman states that he follows the classification of the 'Biologia' "as a matter of convenience," but has altered the names there used to accord with the system of nomenclature of the Check-list of the A.O.U., and has introduced a few corrections, for which reasons are given. A new generic term, "*Agriocharis*," is proposed for the Ocellated Turkey, *Meleagris ocellata* (for which we do not see the necessity!). A useful list of the principal authorities on the birds of Yucatan is appended.

71. *Donaldson-Smith on "Unknown Africa."*

[Through Unknown African Countries—the first Expedition from Somaliland to Lake Rudolf. By A. Donaldson-Smith, M.D., F.R.G.S. Edward Arnold: London, 1897. 1 vol.]

In this volume Dr. Donaldson-Smith gives us a capital account of his adventurous journey from Somaliland to Lake Rudolf and back to the coast at Lamoo. The narrative is, moreover, rendered easy to follow by the excellent set of maps (prepared for the author by the Royal Geographical Society) that accompany it, with dates affixed to every stopping-place throughout the journey.

The birds collected during the first part of the expedition—that is, until the party were driven back to the Shebeyli by the Abyssinians—were sent home by Mr. Gillett, and a good account of them has been given by Dr. Sharpe before the Zoological Society\*. We suppose that the collection made during the subsequent journey from the Shebeyli to Lake Rudolf and thence to the coast will be worked out in America.

There are not many references to birds in the present volume, but the discovery of *Turacus donaldsoni*, Sharpe, in the high country on the Abyssinian frontier near Sheik Mohammed is recorded and an uncoloured figure is given. The new Lark from the Shebeyli (*Alaudula somalica*) is also

\* "On a Collection of Birds made by Dr. A. Donaldson-Smith during his recent Expedition in Western Somaliland." By R. Bowdler Sharpe. P Z. S. 1895, p. 457.

figured, and the abundance of birds in that district is noticed. At Bari on that river *Merops nubicus* was first met with, and *M. superciliosus* later on on the Web. On the upper Jub the forest is said to have been "fairly alive with birds." On the whole we think Dr. Donaldson-Smith might have told us a little more about our special branch of zoology.

### 72. *Elliot on Birds from Somaliland.*

[Catalogue of a Collection of Birds obtained by the Expedition into Somaliland. By D. G. Elliot, F.R.S.E. Field Columbian Mus. Publ. No. 17, Ornith., ser. i. no. 2.]

Mr. Elliot has shown great diligence in getting out his account of the birds met with during his recent excursion in Somaliland. The main object of his journey was to obtain a series of the larger Mammals, so that birds were of secondary importance. Nevertheless, examples of 125 species were obtained, and others were identified. Excellent field-notes are given on most of the species, and the localities of each specimen are attached. It would have been useful to have given an outline map with the route shown and the localities marked, for they cannot be found in any ordinary atlas.

Seven species in Mr. Elliot's list are characterized as new. Three of these are Larks—*Mirafra sharpii*, *Galerita pallida*, and *Ammomanes akeleyi*. *Sylvicola isabellina* is a Warbler, *Burnesia somalica* a Turdoid, and *Pachyprora bella* a Flycatcher. The most remarkable discovery is a new Kestrel, "*Cerchneis fieldi*," allied to *Tinnunculus rupicoloides* of South Africa, but "apparently very distinct."

### 73. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*: or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts CXXXI–CXXXIV. 4to. London: 1896–97. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

We have now the pleasure of announcing the completion of the second volume of the "Aves" of the '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*,' which at the time of our last notice (see *Ibis*, 1896, p. 573) had progressed as far as the Cuculidæ.

The two parts recently issued contain pp. 515-593, which finish the account of the Cuculidæ, and contain those of the Capitonidæ, Rhamphastidæ, and Psittaci. Of the Barbets the authors recognize three Central-American species, of the Toucans 10 as occurring within their limits. Of Parrots, in the arrangement of which Count Salvadori's recently-published catalogue is followed very closely, Messrs. Godman and Salvin acknowledge 31 species as found in Central America. They reinstate *Conurus rubritorquis*, which at one time Count Salvadori had been unwilling to allow, in its place—having received numerous examples from Salvador and Nicaragua.

74. *Goeldi on the Birds of Pará.*

[Boletim do Museu Paraense de Historia Natural e Ethnographia. Vol. i. No. 4.]

Our excellent correspondent, Dr. Goeldi, sends us a copy of the fourth number of the 'Bulletin of the Pará Museum' which he has lately started. It contains several papers by the Director and his fellow-workers on various subjects connected with the fauna and flora of Lower Amazonia. Amongst these is one by Dr. Goeldi ('Contornos para a Avifauna de Pará'), in which he gives a list of the species of birds recorded by Natterer, Wallace, and Layard as occurring near Pará or on the Lower Amazon, promising further information from himself on the interesting subject on a future occasion. We are pleased to observe that adjacent to the 'Museu Paraense de Historia Natural e Ethnographia,' there are a 'Jardim Zoologico' and a 'Horto Botanico' associated under Dr. Goeldi's rule.

75. *Hartert on Subspecific and Family Names.*

[Ueber Begriff und Nomenclatur subspecificher Formen, nebst Bemerkungen über die Nomenclatur der Familien. Von Ernst Hartert. Zool. Anz. no. 523, 1897.]

In a recent article in the 'Zool. Anzeiger' Mr. Hartert raises a discussion as to the best method of writing subspecific names, and as to the proper term to be employed for the names of families in classification. When a species is

divisible into subspecies his plan is to add "*typicus*" in its proper gender to the typical form, and take a third name for the other forms. So, for example, "*Acredula caudata typica*" would be the proper name for the northern form of the Long-tailed Tit, and *Acredula caudata rosea* for the British subspecies. Some authors have proposed to repeat the specific name in the first case and to term the typical form *Acredula caudata caudata*. This would, no doubt, delight the tautonymists, who would thus have the pleasure of calling the typical Magpie *Pica pica pica*, and the Blackbird *Merula merula merula*! But we must say that we prefer Mr. Hartert's plan of adding "*typicus*" to the original form, and this mode of dealing with the subject has already been put forward by one of the Editors of 'The Ibis' on a recent occasion\*. As regards Mr. Hartert's second *crux*, where to place the authority in trinomials, we should say that it is best to omit it altogether. In well-known species it is quite unnecessary to add any authority to the generic and specific terms. Every one knows what *Acredula caudata* and *Erethacus rubecula* mean, and nothing is gained by adding "L." or "Linn." after them. It is, of course, quite incorrect, as Mr. Hartert points out, to write *Acredula caudata typica* (L.), and Selater, who is among those accused of this nefarious practice, absolutely denies that he has ever done so. If the authority is necessary it must be inserted after the specific name, sic. "*Acredula caudata* (L.) *typica*."

As regards "family" names we cannot agree with Mr. Hartert that a name can be retained for a family when the generic term from which it has been taken is discarded. If Mr. Hartert gives up *Cypselus* for *Micropus*, he must call the family "Micropodidæ" instead of "Cypselidæ." The orthodox doctrine has always been that the name of the family should be derived from the oldest and best known genus.

### 76. *Kingsley's Travels in West Africa.*

[Travels in West Africa, Congo Français, Corisco, and Cameroons. By Mary H. Kingsley. 8vo. London: Macmillan & Co., 1897.]

\* See P. Z. S. 1896, p. 315.

We confess to be rather disappointed with Miss Kingsley's narrative of her travels in West Africa, although there is much information to be gathered out of it. But compression and a slight improvement in style would have made it much more readable. Miss Kingsley deserves great credit for her ascent of the Ogowé, and for the excellent collection of the fishes of that river which Dr. Günther has worked out for her. To birds, unfortunately, she paid little attention; at any rate, she did not collect them, "hating to have them killed anyhow." But there is a nice passage in her book on the birds of the Upper Ogowé about the Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorvus cafer*), which we beg leave to copy:—

"I notice great quantities of birds about—great Hornbills, vividly-coloured Kingfishers, and for the first time the great Vulture I have often heard of, and the skin of which I will take home before I mention even its approximate spread of wing. There are also noble white Cranes, and flocks of small black and white birds, new to me, with heavy razor-shaped bills, reminding one of the Devonian Puffin [no doubt some species of *Toccus*]. The Hornbill is perhaps the most striking in appearance. It is the size of a small or, say, a good-sized hen-Turkey. 'Gray Shirt' says the flocks, which are of eight or ten, always have the same quantity of cocks and hens, and that they live together 'white man fashion,' *i. e.* each couple keeping together. They certainly do a great deal of courting, the cock filling out his wattles on his neck, like a Turkey, and spreading out his tail with great pomp and ceremony, but very awkwardly. To see Hornbills on a bare sandbank is a solemn sight, but when they are dodging about in the hippo grass they sink ceremony and roll and waddle, looking—my man said—for snakes, and the little sandfish, which are close in under the bank, and their killing way of dropping their jaws—I should say opening their bills—when they are alarmed, is comic. I saw two or three of them in a line on a long branch, standing stretched up to their full height, their great eyes opened wide, and all with their great beaks open, evidently listening for something. Their cry is most peculiar, and can only be



mistaken for a native horn; and although there seems little variety in it to my ear, there must be more to theirs, for they will carry on long confabulations with each other across a river, and, I believe, sit up half the night and talk scandal."

If the publishers had allowed us a map, we should have been able to discover more exactly where Miss Kingsley went in these little-known regions.

#### 77. Martorelli on *Falco sacer* in Italy.

[Nota Ornitologica intorno ad un nuovo Esemplare di *Falco sacer* preso nelle Vicinanze di Lucera del Socio Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xxxvi.]

Prof. Martorelli records the occurrence of an adult female specimen of *Falco sacer* in Italy, captured alive in February 1896 in a trap near Lucera.

#### 78. Martorelli on two *Myiotherine* Birds.

[Nota Ornitologica intorno alla *Napothera pyrrhoptera*, Boje, ed alla *Myiothera epilepidota*, Temm., del Socio Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xxxvi. p. 203.]

Prof. Martorelli writes on two *Myiotherine* birds of which there are examples in the Turati Collection at Milan—*Napothera pyrrhoptera*, Bp. (*ex* Boie), and *Myiothera epilepidota*, Temm. It seems that Prof. Martorelli is not acquainted with what has been published on the subject by Salvadori, Sharpe, and Büttikofer. He thinks that *Napothera pyrrhoptera*, Boie, ought to be included in the genus *Malacopteron*, ignoring that both by Salvadori (Ucc. di Borneo, p. 234) and by Sharpe (N. L. M. vi. p. 178), quite independently, it has been attributed to the genus *Alcippe*. As to *Myiothera epilepidota*, Temm., Prof. Martorelli does not know what to do with it, and thinks fit to leave it in the genus *Myiothera*, which is synonymous with the American genus *Formicarius* (!), whilst either, according to Büttikofer (N. L. M. xvii. p. 75), it must go in the genus *Turdinulus*, or according to Sharpe (N. L. M. vi. p. 172) in the genus *Corytho- cichla*. Prof. Martorelli gives a full account of *M. epilepidota*,

ignoring the very exhaustive descriptions given by Sharpe (*l. c.*) of the *adult male* and of the *young female* of the same.

### 79. Nansen's 'Farthest North.'

[Fridtjof Nansen's 'Farthest North,' being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration of the Ship 'Fram,' 1893-96, and of a fifteen months' sleigh journey by Dr. Nansen and Lieut. Johansen, with an Appendix by Otto Sverdrup, Captain of the 'Fram,' about one hundred and twenty full-page and numerous text illustrations, sixteen coloured plates in facsimile from Dr. Nansen's own sketches, etched portrait, photogravures, and maps. 2 vols. Royal 8vo. A. Constable & Co.: Westminster, 1897.]

It would be foreign to our subject to go into the general contents of Dr. Nansen's attractive but somewhat bulky volumes, which are, no doubt, already familiar to most of us. But the Editors must say something about the birds which are mentioned in the second volume. It is interesting to note the species which Dr. Nansen and his companion observed during their struggle back from their point farthest north to Franz Josef's Land. On May 29th they met with their first bird in about 82° 30' N.L. It was a Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*). The following day a Black Guillemot (*Uria grylle*) appeared. On June 1st they "heard the angry cry of an Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) and two of these birds were seen sailing over their heads, while the hoarse scream of another Gull, probably *Larus argentatus*, was also noticed." On June 5th more Gulls were seen and an Ivory Gull was shot, while next day (82° 17' N.L.) a Sandpiper was seen, but not obtained. By June 11th the Gulls had conspicuously increased in number, and a Little Auk (*Mergulus alle*) had been observed in a lane of water. On June 16th the first Brünnich's Guillemot (*Lomvia brunnichi*) was shot, and with a couple of Fulmars served to eke out the meagre rations of the two travellers.

On July 15th, as the explorers were at work at their kayaks, a Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) came flying by. It was apparently an adult bird, and a second adult, with a black ring round its neck, was observed four days afterwards. On approaching Hvidten-land, as we have already recorded

(above, p. 141), more Ross's Gulls were seen, together with Ivory Gulls, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Little Auks, and Terns. "There was no want of animal-life here, nor of food in case of its being required." It was here, on Eva's Island, that Dr. Nansen believed that Ross's Gulls had their breeding-grounds. It was not until they reached Torup Island on August 17th that the first land-birds were met with. These were of course Snow-Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), "which fluttered from stone to stone with their cheerful twitter." When establishing themselves in their winter hut on Frederick Jackson Island, on August 29th, two Geese were seen flying south.

The party left in the 'Fram' met the first "harbinger of spring" on April 25th in the shape of a single Snow-Bunting, which took up permanent quarters in one of the sealing-boats and soon got very tame. For further details on the birds of the Far North we must refer our readers to Nansen's journal, which is full of information and well worthy of perusal.

#### 80. Nelson on new Birds from Mexico and Guatemala.

[Preliminary Descriptions of new Birds from Mexico and Guatemala in the Collection of the United States Department of Agriculture. By E. W. Nelson. 'The Auk,' xiv. p. 42.]

During explorations conducted for five years on behalf of the Biological Survey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. E. W. Nelson and his assistant, Mr. E. A. Goldman, have traversed Mexico from end to end and have crossed the country six times from sea to sea. In the course of their travels they have collected altogether from 4000 to 5000 specimens of birds. After comparing these with the large series contained in the National Museum at Washington, Mr. Nelson has come to the conclusion that the following species and subspecies require to be characterized as new:—*Dendrotyto xaxacæ*, *D. macrourus griseopectus*, *Colinus salvini*, *C. godmani*, *C. insignis*, *C. graysoni nigripectus*, *Cyrtonyx merriami*, *Megascops marmoratus*, *Momotus mexicanus saturatus*, *Dryobates sanctorum*, *Anrostomus ridgwaji*, *Delattria pringlei*, *Platypsaris aglaie sumichrasti*, *Empidonax bairdi*

*occidentalis*, *Picolaptes compressus insignis*, *Automolus pectoralis*, *Otocorys alpestris oaxaca*, *Calocitta formosa azurea*, *Cissilopha pulchra*, *Ageleus phœnicus grandis*, *A. p. richmondi*, *A. gubernator californicus*, *Ammodramus savannarum obscurus*, *Junco fulvescens*, *Peucaea ruficeps fusca*, *P. r. australis*, *Cardinalis cardinalis littoralis*, *Chlorospingus atriceps*, *Phœnicotrupis rubicoides affinis*, *Dendroica goldmani*, *Basilenterus flavigaster*, *Heleodytes alticolus*, *H. occidentalis*, *H. humilis rufus*, *H. capistratus nigricaudatus*, *Salpinctes obsoletus neglectus*, *Hemiura pacifica*, *Henicorhina mexicana*, *H. leucophris capitalis*, *Catharus occidentalis fulvescens*, and *Merula tamaulipensis*.

A new genus of Wrens, *Hylorchilus*, is instituted for *Catherpes sumichrasti*, Lawrence.

### 81. North on the Birds of Funafuti, Ellice Islands.

[The Atoll of Funafuti, Ellice Group: its Zoology, Botany, Ethnology, and General Structure, based on Collections made by Mr. Charles Hedley, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, N.S.W. Aves from Funafuti, by A. J. North. Memoirs of the Austral. Mus. no. iii. pt. i. 1896.]

Mr. Charles Hedley, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, accompanied Prof. Sollas and his party during their recent coral-reef-boring expedition to the Atoll of Funafuti, and remained two months and a half on the island. The Trustees of the Museum now kindly send us a copy of his report, which gives full particulars of the general structure of Funafuti, of its natural products, and of its inhabitants. The birds collected by Mr. Hedley, who appears to have devoted himself mainly to the Invertebrata, were only six in number. They are specially reported upon by Mr. North, who refers them to four species, all well known in Australia. Mr. Hedley adds some interesting field-notes on the "Lakea" of the natives (*Micranous leucocapillus*) and its breeding-habits.

### 82. Oustalet on the Avifauna of Mauritius.

[Notice sur la Faune Ornithologique Ancienne et Moderne des Iles Mascareignes et en particulier de l'île Maurice, d'après des documents inédits. Par M. E. Oustalet. Ann. d. Sci. Nat. sér. 7, iii. p. 1.]

The results of the examination of the MSS. of the cele-

brated traveller Philibert Commerson, and of Julien Desjardins, entrusted to Dr. Oustalet by M. Milne-Edwards, have led to the production of this excellent memoir, in which is summed up all that we know at present of the birds of Mauritius, both now existing and recently extinct, and much information about the birds of the other Mascarene Islands.

After a full account of Commerson, his life and adventures and MSS., Dr. Oustalet gives us a list of the most remarkable birds of the Mascarene group, including all those hitherto known from Mauritius, and dissertations on each of them. Altogether, 89 species are enumerated and commented upon.

### 83. *Quelch on Migratory Birds in British Guiana.*

[Migratory Birds in British Guiana. By J. J. Quelch, B.Sc. (Lond.), C.M.Z.S. 'Timehri,' new ser. vol. x. p. 258 (1896).]

Mr. Quelch devotes 20 pages of 'Timehri' to an excellent article on the migratory birds of British Guiana, to which he has paid special attention. After alluding to cases of local migration, he passes to "migratory birds proper" which come south every year to avoid the northern winter, and among these particularly to the Grallæ, great flights of which make their appearance in British Guiana at the end of August and the beginning of September. There, as in England, the shooting-season begins on September the 1st, the five previous months having been declared by law to be a close season throughout the colony. About that time multitudes of Golden Plovers (*Charadrius virginicus*), Turnstones, Ring-Plovers (*Ægialitis*), Yellowshauks, Curlews, Sandpipers, and Sanderlings make their appearance and become the prey of the active gunner. Mr. Quelch passes these species in review one by one, and points out their chief peculiarities, begging at the same time for sets of specimens of them for the Georgetown Museum.

### 84. *Reichenow on the Birds of Togoland.*

[Zur Vogelfauna von Togo. Dritter Nachtrag, mit einer Übersicht der



bis jetzt aus dem Togogebiet bekannten Arten. Von Prof. Dr. Ant. Reichenow. J. f. O. 1897, p. 1.]

Togoland, a name hardly to be found except in our most recent maps of Africa, is a German colony on the West-African coast that has lately received much active attention from exploring naturalists. In 1891-92 Dr. Reichenow published a series of articles upon the birds collected there by Dr. Büttner, and enumerated 133 species as belonging to its avifauna. Since then Herr Baumann, Lieutenant Klose, and Graf Zech have been active in supplementing Dr. Büttner's researches, and Dr. Reichenow is now able to increase the known number of the birds of Togoland to 279. These are all mentioned in the present catalogue, and references, field-notes, and other remarks are added. Two coloured plates contain figures of the principal novelties of the Togoland ornis:—*Centrococcyx mechowi*, *Trachylæmus togoensis*, *Phyllostrephus baumanni*, and *Crateropus reinwardti*.

85. *Sclater, W. L.—List of South-African Birds.*

[List of the Birds of South Africa. Capetown, 1896. 8 pp.]

Mr. W. L. Selater has printed, for the use of the South-African Museum (which is now in progress of re-arrangement), a list of the names of the birds of South Africa, according to the order of the British Museum Catalogue. References are added to Sharpe and Layard's 'Handbook of South-African Birds,' of which, however, the nomenclature is in many cases changed.

Mr. W. L. Selater's List contains the names of no less than 775 species as hitherto recorded from Africa south of the Zambesi.

86. *Sharpe's 'Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain.'*

[Allen's Naturalist's Library. Edited by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. A Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., Assistant Keeper, Sub-Department of Vertebrata, Zoological Department, British Museum. Vol. IV. London: W. H. Allen & Co., 1897.]

The fourth volume of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's 'Handbook'

contains an account of the Lariformes, Procellariiformes, Colymbiformes, Podicipediformes, Ralliformes, Columbiformes, and Galliformes, according to his system of nomenclature, and concludes the work. An Appendix gives some additions to the three previous volumes. There are 35 coloured plates to illustrate these Orders.

In his preface to the present volume, Dr. Sharpe takes the opportunity of replying to his critics on the subject of nomenclature, and prophesies that the writers in scientific journals (among whom we suppose he includes the Editors of 'The Ibis') "will be found adopting *his* nomenclature in the near future"! To this we can only answer, "Wait and we shall see!" But he does not attempt to reply to the chief fault we find with his names—that is, the unnecessary multiplication of generic terms. In our remarks on the previous volume (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 418) we have called attention to this point, and it is not necessary to repeat them on the present occasion.

#### 87. *Shufeldt on some Fossil Bones of Birds.*

[Fossil Bones of Birds and Mammals from Grotto Pietro Tamponi and Grive-St. Alban. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1896, p. 507.]

Dr. Shufeldt gives an account of a collection of fossil bones of birds and mammals belonging to Mr. John Eyerman, obtained partly from the Grotto Pietro Tamponi, in Sardinia, and partly from the upper division of the Miocene beds of Grive-St. Alban, Isère, France, and refers some of them to described species, whilst others are left undetermined. But on a tibio-tarsus and tarsus from the former locality he proposes to base a new species of Shearwater (*Puffinus eyermanni*), and on a nearly complete upper portion of a right tibio-tarsus from Grive-St. Alban a new *Tantalus*, to be called *T. milne-edwardsi*.

#### 88. *Stirling and Zietz on Genyornis newtoni.*

[Preliminary Notes on *Genyornis newtoni*, a new Genus and Species of Fossil Struthious Bird found at Lake Callabonna, South Australia.

By E. C. Stirling, M.D., F.R.S. and A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S. Trans. R. Soc. S. Australia, xx. p. 171.]

We have already given an account of the main results arrived at by the authors of this preliminary memoir (see 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 135). Since then Dr. Stirling has paid us a visit in this country, and has exhibited some most interesting specimens of the remains of *Genyornis* at a Meeting of the Zoological Society (see P. Z. S. 1897, p. 266). A set of these bones are now deposited in the British Museum.

### 89. Tegetmeier on Pheasants.

[Pheasants: their Natural History and Practical Management. By W. B. Tegetmeier. Third edition, enlarged. Illustrated from life by Messrs. J. G. Millais, T. W. Wood, P. Smit, and F. W. Frohawk, &c. 8vo. London: Horace Cox, 1897.]

The success of Mr. Tegetmeier's little volume on Pheasants and their management is sufficiently evident from a *third* edition having been called for. The first portion of this work is of a practical nature, and after a chapter on the natural history of Pheasants, their habits, food, structure, introduction, and distribution, gives full particulars as to their management in preserves and in confinement. Excellent instructions, derived from the best authorities, are added concerning breeding Pheasants, and especially as to the mode of treatment of the young birds.

The second portion of the treatise gives an account of the species of Pheasants most adapted for the covert and for the aviary. In the former category, besides the Common Pheasant of Western Europe, Mr. Tegetmeier includes *Phasianus principalis* of Afghanistan, *P. torquatus* of China, *P. versicolor* and *P. sammerringi* of Japan, and *P. reevesi* of Manchuria. Excellent illustrations are given of all these species. Six Pheasants are described as specially adapted for the aviary, and figured in an equally correct style, and we believe that the number of this list might have been further extended if necessary.

We can sincerely commend 'Pheasants: their Natural History and Practical Management,' to all students and admirers of these splendid birds.

90. *Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on the Birds of Austria-Hungary.*

[Ornithologische Collectaneen aus Österreich-Ungarn und dem Occupationsgebiete. Von Vict. Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Ornith. Jahrb. viii. p. 24.]

Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen is always active in the ornithological field of Austria and Hungary. He now gives us notices of various occurrences of the rarer species. A nest of *Nucifraga caryocatactes pachyrhynchus* was obtained in the Kremsthal, in Carinthia, last year, and a Flamingo (*Phænicopterus roseus*) was captured alive near Olmütz, in Moravia.

XXXVI.—*Obituary.*—Heer A. A. VAN BEMMELEN,  
Sir EDWARD NEWTON, and Mr. A. D. BARTLETT.

ADRIAAN ANTHONY VAN BEMMELEN, lately Director of the Zoological Gardens, Rotterdam, was born Nov. 3rd, 1831, at Almelo, in Holland, and was educated at Leiden. From his youth upwards he was always fond of natural history, and at the age of seventeen commenced to attend the academical lessons in zoology, botany, and anatomy at Leiden, and to work at the collections in the Zoological Museum, where Temminck was then Director, and Schlegel, Herklots, Snellen van Vollenhoven, and Finsch were members of the staff. With all these zoologists he was on excellent terms, and on the 1st of July, 1859, was named a Second-class Assistant at the Museum, and in 1865 promoted to be First-class Assistant. In this position he remained until the year 1866, when he was selected to be Director of the Rotterdam Zoological Gardens, succeeding there the famous lion-tamer Martin. Ever since the accession of Van Bemmelen the Rotterdam Gardens, notwithstanding many difficulties that had to be surmounted, have constantly progressed in a favourable direction. The collection of living animals has considerably